

Magor and St. Mellons
Rural District Council.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector.

FOR THE YEAR 1939.

NEWPORT, MON.
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1940.

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ANNUAL REPORT

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MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

For the Year ending 31st December, 1939.

To the Chairman and Members of the Magor and St. Mellons Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report upon the general conditions of Public Health for the year 1939, for the Rural District of Magor and St. Mellons.

The Report is drawn up on the lines laid down in the Ministry of Health (Wales) Circular 1961, and is in the nature of an interim Report only—in accordance with the Ministry's recommendation.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area: (consisting of twenty-six parishes)	44,074 acres
Population: estimated to middle of 1939	... 12,273
„ at amalgamation of Magor and St. Mellons Councils	... 15,118
Census figures, 1931 (adjusted for present amalgamated Rural District)	... 14,881
Number of inhabited houses (1939)	... 3,364
Rateable Value	... £68,969
Sum represented by penny rate	... *£252

(*As ascertained in the prescribed manner under R. & V. Act, 1925).

Social Conditions.

Some further building developments have taken place during the year in the Parishes of Rogerstone, St. Mellons, Langstone and Marshfield.

The inhabitants of a large part of this area are engaged in agricultural pursuits, mostly cattle rearing, etc., and producing and retailing milk, there being a ready market for this in Cardiff and Newport.

A new industry, giving employment to a large number of people, has commenced operations in this Council's Area on the site of another works, previously closed down. A large proportion of those employed at the new works live outside this Rural District, and travel daily to and from work from adjacent areas.

Vital Statistics.

Registrar General's Returns have not been issued, and no figures are available to ascertain Birth and Death Rates, etc.

Hospital Services, etc.

As indicated in the Report for 1938. There were no changes in these Services during the year.

Public Health Officers of the Council.

Medical Officer of Health (part time).

Deputy Medical Officer of Health (part time).

Sanitary Inspector (whole time officer).

A contribution of one-half the salaries is paid by the Ministry of Health.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

(a) **General.**—No provision is made by the Council for general nursing. This work is carried on by private enterprise and District Nursing Associations, supported by voluntary contributions.

There is no change from previous years.

(b) **For Infectious Diseases.**—Nil.

Midwives.—The number of midwives practising in the area is 6:—

Bassaleg	...	1	Undy	...	...	1
Castleton	...	1	Rhiwderin	...	...	1
St. Mellons	...	1	Rogerstone	...	...	1

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.—For the Western portion of the Rural Area the water supply on the whole can be regarded as satisfactory, in both quality and quantity, considering the size and scattered nature of the area. The residential centres of this area are provided with adequate and satisfactory piped water supplies.

With reference to the insufficient water supply from the existing mains in the parishes of Magor and Redwick mentioned in previous Reports, the Council have now decided to proceed with the previously approved scheme for improving the supply to these Parishes, in respect of which application has been made to the County Council for Grants in aid to carry out this work. It is hoped the work will be carried out during the coming year.

During 1939 new water mains were laid to provide a piped water supply to 12 houses in the Parish of St. Mellons, previously dependent upon "well" water supplies.

Drainage and Sewerage.—The populous and closely built parts of the area which previously constituted the St. Mellons Rural District are served by efficient sewerage systems, except in the Parish of Marshfield. The undermentioned portions of the District are sewered and have the water carriage system of sewage disposal:—

Rogerstone, Bassaleg and Rhiwderin are connected up to the Western Valley Main Trunk Sewer.

St. Mellons.—A sewerage scheme is connected up to the Rhymney Valley Main Trunk Sewer. Additional Subsidiary Sewers have been constructed to meet the building developments in progress on the Druidstone Road Area.

Lower Māchen.—The houses in the vicinity of Church Road are connected up to a Subsidiary sewer which discharges into the Rhymney Valley Main Trunk Sewer near the Draythen Bridge.

Marshfield.—Detailed Plans prepared for a Sewerage Scheme for the Parish of Marshfield are now in obedience.

Throughout the greater part of the Eastern portion of this Rural District which previously constituted the Magor Rural District, the dry earth closet system is in use.

As the houses in the closely built and populous centres of the Council's area are provided with W.C.'s connected up to the Council's sewers, the Council do not now undertake the collection and disposal of refuse from earth closets and privies, nor the cleansing of cesspools. This duty is imposed by Bye-laws upon the occupier of the premises.

Sanitary Inspection of the District.

(See Sanitary Inspector's Report—page 12).

Smoke Abatement.—It has not been found necessary to take any action under this head.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year	...	59
(i) By the Local Authority	... ..	2
(ii) By other Local Authorities	... ..	Nil
(iii) By other Bodies or persons	... ..	57

1.—Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year:—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	311
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose...	549
(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under subhead (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	89
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose...	237
(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	20
(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	156

2.—Remedy of Defects during the Year without service of Formal Notice:—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	89
--	----

3.—Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	25
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal Notices:—	
(a) by Owners	25
(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners ...	Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	45
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(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal Notices :—

(a) by Owners	...	...	...	...	...	42
(b) by Local Authority in default of Owners	...	...	...	...	...	Nil

(c) **Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:**

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... 3

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... 3

(Three “*unfit*” houses were also demolished as a result of Informal Notices).

(d) **Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:**

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... Nil

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... Nil

Six houses were “closed” but not demolished, subject to an undertaking given by the Owner under Section 11.

4.—HOUSING ACT, 1936—OVERCROWDING.

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... 23

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ... 23

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ... 167

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... Nil

(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... 1

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... 5

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... Nil

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.

The milk produced in the area continues to be of a good standard as regards quality and cleanliness. The distribution of the milk is, on the whole, carried out in a satisfactory manner.

A large proportion of the milk produced in the District is sold in Cardiff and Newport.

There are 234 registered wholesale producers of Milk in the Council area, and 109 Milk Retailers.

During this year further investigations were made into the Milk Supply in your area, by means of samples of milk taken by the Sanitary Inspector, for Bacteriological examination at the County Laboratory.

Two cases of Tubercular Milk were dealt with in conjunction with the County Health Department.

Meat.

Meat Inspection.—This was carried out by the Sanitary Inspector, who is meat Inspector under the 1924 Meat Regulations. There is no Public Abattoir in your District. Slaughtering was carried out in private slaughter houses, which were regularly visited by your Sanitary Inspector.

Prevalence of, and Control over Infectious Disease.

All cases of Notifiable Infectious Diseases are visited and investigated by the Sanitary Inspector after the receipt of a Notification. Where necessary, arrangements are made for the removal of the Patient to an Isolation Hospital, if accommodation is available.

The examination of pathological and bacteriological specimens are carried out at the County Council Laboratory.

Diphtheria Anti-Toxin is supplied free by the Council, and is extensively used.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

No further work has been done under this head during the year.

There were 14 cases of Diphtheria and 20 cases of Scarlet Fever notified during the year. Most of these were cases of a mild type. A slight outbreak of Diphtheria occurred in the Parish of Magor during the Autumn. Prompt action was taken, including the swabbing of children and "contacts"; temporary closing of the schools; and the epidemic soon subsided.

Notifiable Diseases.

Analysis of Total Cases and Deaths from Infectious Diseases, according to Age Groups for 1939.

DISEASE	Cases Notified.					Age Groups.					Deaths.					Age Groups.					Totals all ages	Number Admitted to Hospitals				
	Under 1 year	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	6 & over	Totals all ages	Under 1 year	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15			15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 & over
Diphtheria	1	.....	.....	6	1	3	3	.....	.....	.....	14	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Scarlet Fever	1	.....	1	5	6	1	4	2	.....	.....	20	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Enteric Fever
Pneumonia —	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	No	No	Details	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Puerperal Fever
Cerebro Spinal Fever	1	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Totals	1	2	1	1	1	12	7	4	8	2	.....	.....	38	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

Tuberculosis is not included in this summary.

Cancer was not unduly prevalent. Facilities provided at the Radium Centre at Cardiff are used by sufferers from this disease.

Blindness cases are treated by the County in the case of Ophthalmia Neonatorum, and in the Borough for others.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Disease		Total Cases Notified	Cases admitted to hospital	Total Deaths
Small Pox	... ..	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	... ..	20	8	—
Diphtheria	... ..	14	12	1
Enteric Fever	... ..	—	—	—
(including Paratyphoid)				
Puerperal Pyrexia...	... ..	—	—	—
Pneumonia	... ..	1	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis	... ..	2	2	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1939.

Age periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0
1
5	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...
15	3	...	...	...	...
25	...	2	1	1	1	2	...	...
35	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
45
55
65 and up	...	1	...	1	...	2	...	...
Total	—	5	1	6	1	4	—	—

The rate of Non-notified T.B. Deaths to total T.B. Deaths is Nil.

It is pleasing to note the comparatively small number of deaths from Tuberculosis.

The incidence of new cases of Tuberculosis compares favourably with other areas.

Notifications of cases by Private Medical Practitioners are prompt and satisfactory.

There is nothing requiring special note of an industrial character, or in conditions of employment, predisposing to Tuberculosis.

PUBLIC HEALTH (Prevention of Tuberculosis) REGULATIONS, 1925.

Under these regulations a person suffering from Tuberculosis is prohibited from engaging in an occupation which involves the handling of milk by him, under such conditions as to create a danger of infection of the milk.

It has not been found necessary to take any action under these regulations.

PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 (Section 172).

No action was taken under Section 172 for compulsory removal to Hospital of any infectious persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis. Under this enactment a Local Authority are empowered to apply to a Court of Summary Jurisdiction for an Order for the removal of any person suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis who is in an infectious state, for his detention and maintenance therein for such period not exceeding three months as the Court thinks fit.

I have the honour to remain, Ladies & Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

NOEL N. WADE.

Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

To the Chairman and Members of the Magor and St. Mellons Rural District Council.

I beg to submit, herewith, a Report of the Sanitary and other work carried out during the year ending 31st December, 1939.

289 Preliminary Notices and Informal Intimations relating to various nuisances and their abatement, were sent during the year.

The number of Statutory Notices served was 70.

Representations were made in respect of a further 20 houses which were considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be "unfit" for human habitation.

Six "unfit" Houses were closed subject to an "undertaking given by the owners under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936, and Six "unfit" houses demolished.

During the year a further 33 "unfit" structurally defective houses have been repaired and "re-conditioned," and put in a proper habitable condition.

Since 1920:—

38 "unfit" houses have been demolished.

36 "unfit" houses have been vacated and used for purposes other than for human habitation.

33 "unfit" temporary structures have been vacated.

134 "unfit structurally defective houses have been "re-conditioned" and made fit for human habitation.

HOUSING ACT, 1936—OVERCROWDING.

Total number of houses included in the 1936	Preliminary Survey	2551
Number of families living in overcrowded conditions	Jan., 1938	33
do. do. do. do.	Jan., 1939	24
Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during 1939		Nil
Number of cases of overcrowding abated during 1939	..	1
Number of families overcrowded on 31/12/39	..	23

House Refuse Collection.

Collection of house refuse is carried out by Contract in the Parishes of Rogerstone, Graig, Duffryn, Marshfield, St. Mellons, Henllys and Llanwern.

Collection of House Refuse is now being carried out in the Parish of Langstone.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS, REPAIRS, Etc.

The following is a summary of the work carried out, and inspections made during the year.

Houses repaired ..	..	156
Houses represented as "unfit" ..	..	20
Additional light and ventilation in rooms ..	..	25
Additional height in bedrooms ..	..	28
Pantries or Larders provided ..	..	18
Floors of living rooms relaid, or repaired ..	..	27
Forecourts and backyards to houses newly paved and repaired ..	..	13
Rainwater Troughing & Down Pipes newly provided or renewed (premises) ..	..	91
Houses re-roofed ..	..	9
Damp Walls repaired and remedied ..	..	23
Premises visited ..	..	697
Inspections following complaints ..	..	73
Nuisances abated ..	..	95
Offensive Ditches and Water Courses cleansed ..	..	3
Cases of Overcrowding abated during year ..	..	1
Houses cleansed ..	..	11
Wells repaired ..	..	7
Premises provided with more adequate supply of water ..	..	11
Miscellaneous Inspections ..	..	321
Houses disinfected after Infectious Diseases ...	...	41

WATER SUPPLIES.

Number of samples taken, 15.

These samples were taken from (a) Council's Reservoir, Castleton, which provided a piped Water Supply for the parishes of Marshfield, St. Brides and Peterstone ; (b) from various house supplies ; (c) from rain water storage tanks, and (d) " Well " water supplies in the Rural District.

HOUSE DRAINS.

New Drains laid (exeluding New Houses)	...	11
Repaired and cleansed	...	59
New Inspection Chambers on existing drains	...	9
New Slop Sinks provided in houses	...	27

WATER CLOSETS.

New Water elosets provided to existing houses	...	3
Repaired	...	43
New Flush Tanks provided to existing houses	...	25
Flush Tanks Repaired	..	18
Defective Closet Pans replaced by new ones	...	21

PRIVIES and PAILS.

Converted to Water Closets	...	...	3
Repaired and cleansed	...	...	14

CESSPOOLS.

New Cesspools eonstructed	...	...	9
Cleansed and Repaired	..	...	21

Slaughterhouses.

There are 7 Slaughterhouses in this Rural District situated as follows :—

St. Mellons	2	Castleton	1	Rogerstone	1
		Langstone	1	Magor	2
Visits made thereto	...	...	...	...	479
Representations as to Limewashing, etc. complied with					2

Since the commencement of the War, centralised slaughtering has been introduced throughout the country by the Ministry of Food under their scheme of Livestock and Meat Control.

The Slaughter of Animals Act is in operation throughout the District. No contraventions of the Act were met with.

Twelve applications were received for licenses under this Aet to slaughter animals, and annual licenses were granted in each case by the Council.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle ex- cluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Approx. Number Killed	74	29	79	998	475
Number Inspected ...	67	25	71	865	459
All Diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	2	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	5	3	2	23	11
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with disease other than T.B.	7.4	12.	2.8	2.9	2.6
Tuberculosis Only.					
Whole carcases condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	2	3	Nil.	Nil.	3
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with Tuberculosis	2.9	12	Nil.	Nil.	0.6

Approximate weight of diseased and unsound meat, etc.
destroyed during the year, the whole of which was voluntary
surrendered :—

Beef	.....	531 lbs.
Veal	.....	21 lbs.
Pork	.....	101 lbs.
Mutton	.....	95 lbs.
Offal (Beef, Pork and Mutton)	.....	311 lbs.
Bottled and Tin Foods	.....	67 lbs.
Fish	.....	15 lbs.
Fruit	.....	39 lbs.

Total 1180 lbs.

Milk Supply.

Repeated inspections of the Cowsheds, Dairies, etc., in the
Council's area have been carried out during the year, and
representations made to the persons responsible regarding any
insanitary conditions, etc. requiring to be remedied.

Two samples of milk produced in the Magor and St. Mellons
Rural District, were found upon examination at the County
Laboratory, to be infected with Tubercle Bacilli.

Detailed investigations were subsequently carried out, in
conjunction with the County Health Department on the dairy
farms concerned.

Number of Producers and/or Wholesale Traders on the Register, 31/12/39	234
Number of Retail Purveyors on the Register, 31/12/39	*109

(*Of this number 71 are also registered as "Producers")

COWSHEDS and DAIRIES.

New Cowsheds erected	2
New Outbuildings for Milk, Utensils, etc.	2
Cowsheds repaired	8
New Floors constructed or repaired	6
Increased light and ventilation	5
Drains provided or repaired	3
More adequate Water Supply	2
Representations as to Limewashing and cleansing (complied with)	32

BACTERIOLOGICAL and BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF MILK.

During the past year (1939) 89 routine samples of bulk milk supplies have been collected in various parts of the Rural District for examination at the County Laboratory. This represents the milk supply from approximately 900 cows. As indicated in previous reports, these routine samples are taken primarily for the purpose of detecting any Tubercle Bacilli present in the milk, and also any manurial or other contamination.

Of the 89 samples taken during the past year, two were found to contain Tuberculosis and further detailed investigations were carried out on the Dairy Farms concerned for the purpose of tracing and disposing of any infected animals.

The following is a summary of the bacteriological standard of these 89 bulk samples examined at the County Laboratory :—

35 samples conformed to a satisfactory standard of bacteriological purity.

25 samples were found to be fairly satisfactory.

With reference to the remaining 29 samples found to be unsatisfactory, the producers and/or retailers concerned, were communicated with, and necessary action taken with a view to obtaining an improved standard in these milk supplies.

A number of these unsatisfactory samples were of milk supplies produced outside of this Rural District and were obtained from churns as and when delivered to a butter-making factory in your area.

During the past six years, 586 separate bulk milk samples have been taken. The total number of such samples collected for bacteriological examination up to the end of 1939, since the collection of these informal samples was commenced in 1923 is 1,110

The minimum standard of purity aimed at is that stipulated for "accredited" milk.

Nuisances from Keeping Animals, etc.

Number abated	14
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New Houses.

59 houses were completed ready for occupation during the year 1939 in the undermentioned parishes :—

Rogerstone	..	16	Henllys	..	1
Graig ..	..	2	Kemeys-Inferior	..	1
Duffryn	..	2	Langstone	..	9
St. Mellons	..	20	Bishton	..	2
Marshfield	...	5			
Michaelstone	..	1			
Total					59

I beg to remain, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. O. LEWIS,
Sanitary and Housing Inspector.



ADDENDUM

TO

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1939.

Vital Statistics.

Population 1939 (Mid-year Estimate for District
as now constituted) from Registrar General *11,710

* The population figure of 12,273 given on page 3 of the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1939 was the figure furnished by the National Registration Department of the Council as the actual number of the population in this Rural District on the night of National Registration 29th September, 1939.

Birth Rate.—The number of Births registered was :—

			M.	F.	Total
Total Births	...	...	76	67	143
Legitimate	...	...	73	65	138
Illegitimate	...	...	3	2	5
Still Births	...	...	3	3	6

The Birth Rate per 1000 of population for 1939 was 12.2

The Birth Rate for England and Wales for 1939 was 15.0

The Birth Rate for Monmouthshire was 15.9

The Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live and still births was 40.2

INFANT MORTALITY.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age :

Number of Deaths 6 (3 boys and 3 girls) giving a Rate of 42.0
per 1000 live births.

Illegitimate Infants per 1000 live births Nil

The rate for the whole of England and Wales was .. 50.0

The rate for Monmouthshire was 61.2

Deaths from Measles (all ages) Nil

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) 1

Death Rate.—The number of Deaths registered during the year was 146 (M. 73 : F. 73) giving a crude Death Rate of 12.4 per 1,000.

The Death Rate for England and Wales was	...	12.1
The Death Rate for Monmouthshire was	...	12.7
Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis	...	Nil.
Deaths from other Puerperal causes	...	Nil.
Giving a Rate per 1,000 births of	..	Nil.
Maternal Mortality Rate for England and Wales		2.93

Causes of Death.

	M.	F.
1. Typhoid Fever, etc.	Nil.	Nil.
2. Measles	Nil.	Nil.
3. Scarlet Fever	Nil.	Nil.
4. Whooping Cough	Nil.	Nil.
5. Diphtheria	1	Nil.
6. Influenza	1	2
7. Encephalitis Lethargica	Nil.	Nil.
8. Cerebro spinal Fever	Nil.	Nil.
9. Respiratory Tuberculosis	1	4
10. Other Tuberculosis	Nil.	Nil.
11. Syphilis	1	Nil.
12. General paralysis of insane, etc.	Nil.	Nil.
13. Cancer	6	15
14. Diabetes	1	2
15. Cerebral hæmorrhage	1	1
16. Heart Disease	29	23
17. Aneurysm	Nil.	Nil.
18. Other circulatory	4	2
19. Bronchitis	3	2
20. Pneumonia	3	3
21. Other Respiratory Diseases	Nil.	Nil.
22. Peptic Ulcer	3	Nil.
23. Diarrhœa, etc. (under 2 years)	Nil.	1
24. Appendicitis	Nil.	Nil.
25. Cirrhosis of Liver	Nil.	Nil.
26. Other Liver Diseases	1	2
27. Other Digestive Diseases	1	Nil.
28. Nephritis	2	4
29. Puerperal Sepsis	Nil.	Nil.
30. Other Puerperal	Nil.	Nil.
31. Congenital causes, etc.	2	4
32. Senility	1	2
33. Suicide	1	1
34. Other violence	4	3
35. Other defined causes	7	2
36. Ill-defined causes	Nil.	Nil.

Deaths of Children under 1 year - 6 (3 M., 3 F.)



